

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to Claim 4 because it contains the misspelled word, [rotable] which is corrected to rotatable herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges that Examiner has recognized the allowability of Claims 3 and 6 with all of the limitations of the base and intervening claims. However, Applicant believes that the rejection of base and intervening claims has been overcome and therefore Claims 3 and 6 are allowable in their original dependent forms.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

The instant invention discloses a retractable card holder. The essential feature of the invention is its ability to maintain the orientation of the card to the housing and to the user who wears the housing. This is accomplished primarily through the geometry of the tape, the longitudinal flexibility and lateral stiffness of the tape, and the snug passage of the tape through an exit slot of the housing. This combination of elements leads to resistance against flapping of an I.D. card attached to the end of the tape, maintenance of the orientation of the card, and return of the card to the desired orientation if it is intentionally twisted.

CLAIMS 1 AND 2

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klangos in view of Carlson.

Klangos discloses a portable suspension support for a "fountain syringe" (which Applicant believes is a shower douche or hot water bottle) that includes an upper and lower hook with a housing between them. The housing contains a reel with a "ribbon-like flexible strip or strap" (Column 2, lines 55-56) that can be extended and withdrawn. The Examiner particularly points out that Klangos discloses a tape-orienting slot 86 and means 24 for attaching to a card.

However, the slot 86 has no limitation with regard to proximity to the tape. This would be essential for maintaining the orientation of the tape – an essential feature of the instant invention (See e.g. Page 3, lines 8-10 and Page 6, lines 24-27). The slot 86 shown in figures 2 and 3 of Klangos is large relative to the tape which passes through it and would allow for twisting movement of the tape within the slot. Furthermore, Klangos discloses a very flexible strap, not the tape with longitudinal flexibility and lateral stiffness of the instant invention (See, e.g. Page 3, lines 3-6). Finally, the invention of Klangos would not be in any way suitable or adaptable for use as a card holder.

Carlson discloses a tape measure (not an I.D. card holder) attached directly to the retractor spring within a housing. This disclosure, when combined with Klangos, does not make Klangos relevant to the instant invention.

CLAIMS 4 AND 5

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klangos in view of Wilkins or alternatively, over Kagel in view of Cahill.

Wilkins discloses a hand-held dog leash on a reel (not an I.D. card holder). The leash is mounted to a retractable spring-loaded reel within a housing and the housing is adapted with a hand-activated friction brake that acts upon the reel within the housing. The leash is depicted as a round cord passing through a round “nipple” in the housing. This provides no orientation of the leash relative to the user or the housing.

Kagel discloses a retractable badgeholder in which the distinguishing feature is that the face of the housing spins when the cord of the badgeholder is extended or retracted. The cord is round and passes through a nipple in the housing. The cord, and the badge attached thereto, is able to spin relative to the housing and the user.

Cahill discloses tethers and connectors for locating, tracking and retrieving items packaged in popcorn-like packaging material. The Examiner refers particularly to Figure 10 where it is disclosed that the tether may be formed from “flexible plastics, rubber, leather; woven material such as rope, string, thread, as in FIG. 10A; metal chains or cables and other elastic or flexible materials, alternatively rigid